

PRESS RELEASE
Release Immediately
Hon. Sharpe James
Councilman South Ward

PRESS RELEASE

COUNCILMAN SHARPE JAMES
643-1224 924-4359

DATE

JAMES RESPOND TO LABOR CRITIC

The emotionally filled critical remarks by Moses Neal of local 945, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chaffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers Union on my voting record against pay raises for city employees is a crude and maverick attempt by Mr. Neal to force me to change my vote. I further strongly question his motives for attacking me for being in attendance and voting my conviction, when in this the first meeting that the \$2.2 million pay raise package appeared on the agenda both Council President Louis A. Turco and At-Large Councilman Anthony J. Giuliano were absent. I would think that he is knowledgeable that it takes six votes for successful passage of money items as opposed to my one vote.

However, I most certainly will not dignify his irresponsible and immature personal slurs but will address myself to the issue of South Ward beautification on which we disagree; and I do not share his belligerent opinion that I need to have lunch with him and go on a tour of the city as a prerequisite to advising him and public works director Samuel A. Friscia of improved services required namely:

- *cleaning of flooding sewers
- *repair of potholes
- *The cleaning of debris strewn city owned lots
- *the failure of motorbroom services on certain streets
- *the dropping of dirt and debris by the motorbroom
- *the failure of the trash puller to show up
- *trimming of trees
- *removal of hazardous abandoned houses
- *removal of abandoned cars

More specifically, the majority residents of the South Ward have always accepted

more please

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their individual responsibility and are willing to cooperate and improve, but we cannot accept Moses Neal's position that pay raises should be automatic notwithstanding level of service.

My position on pay raises for city employees is the firm belief that the citizens of Newark should expect improved services with increasing pay raises that increase taxes, as well as improved supervision. Unfortunately, this has not been a reality in granting raises in recent years.

Finally, I find it rather absurd and a business as usual attitude that Mr. Neal would use gestapo (had to recess the last council meeting) tactics in pressing for pay raises, while not lifting a finger or voice to redress legitimate grievances brought to him by the citizens of Newark. He should be schooled that name calling will not clean our streets and lots nor improve the beautification of our city.

My position stands that there is room for improvement and the enclosed sample letters verify same:


Respectfully Submitted